

Yuusha no Segare - Short Stories

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SS 01 – Watches cannot measure the heart

The members of the Kenzaki family were all busy with their morning preparations, but Diana was looking at one particular person while she was helping to prepare breakfast.

“Yasuo’s is black.”

Dianna murmured to herself while looking at Kenzaki Yasuo, the eldest son of the Kenzaki family, who was wearing his school uniform.

“Hmm? Diana, is something the matter?”

Yasuo tilted his head and asked after he noticed Diana’s gaze.

“No, it’s nothing, sorry.”

Diana gave a small apology, thinking that she had been rudely staring at him for too long

“Diana-chan, there’s some leftover bacon in the top shelf of the refrigerator, can you get that for me please?”

“Yes, certainly.”

Diana carried out the request of Kenzaki Madoka, a housewife, mother, and the person who wielded power over the family in the background.

“Madoka... doesn’t have it.”

She said that to herself as she continued to observe. At that time,

“Mom, have you seen my mobile phone!?”

Kenzaki Nodoka, the younger sister of Yasuo and the arbitrator of the family, came running into the kitchen.

“I don’t know. Weren’t you holding it right after you woke up? Did you check in the washroom?”

“Eeh!? I already checked there...”

Saying that, she ran out again.

“Nodoka... doesn’t have it either.”

Looking at Nodoka, Diana slightly tilted her head.

“Seriously, Nodoka is like this every morning... Right then, it’s time for me to leave. Mom, I’ll be late today as I have to meet customers who are coming from far away.”

Kenzaki Hideo, the central pillar of the Kenzaki family and the Hero who Diana looked up to, said that after quickly finishing his breakfast and standing up.

“Yes, okay. Do you have your mobile phone? Try to be alone as much as possible, just in case something happens.”

“I know.”

Hideo looked at Diana after accepting his wife’s instructions.

“Diana-chan, I’m counting on you to take care of the other things.”

“Yes, leave it to me. Have a good day!”

Diana gave a short bow while wiping her wet hands with a towel, and,

“...Hideo’s is silver.”

She was properly observing the correct things.

“Yasuo, you don’t need to stop what you’re doing, so can you please answer a question?”

“W-What...? Do you need me to answer it right away, can’t it wait until after we’re done?”

After returning from prep school that night, Yasuo, who had been training under Diana for the past few days suddenly received a question.

“If possible, I would like for you to answer it right away.”

Diana still looked fine while performing the strenuous exercise, but Yasuo was red faced and out of breath.

“R-Right away... That depends... on the question (question)...”

His tongue was not working properly.

Diana’s movements were rhythmical and she didn’t mess up her pace at all,

however Yasuo was at the level where he was not even sure how his body was moving once he started to talk.

“You can’t do it...?”

Although Diana was usually the kind of person who tripped over nothing, and was prone to saying the most idiotic things, she turned into a completely different person when it was time for training. It was the same even during their daily nighttime running routine.

She was a Magitech Knight from Ante Lande, a different world.

She was a bona fide soldier from the Resteria Kingdom.

Yasuo only possessed the physical strength of an average third year high school student, could not match her when it came to physical ability at all.

However, Yasuo was still training under Diana in order to be able to fight for and protect his family. More than anything, there were probably no men who could reply that it isn’t possible when a girl like Diana, who was an otherworld beauty, asked them if they can’t do something.

“No, I can’t. It’s impossible. At least, let us walk...”

Simply put, everything has a limit.

There was no way that the president of a cultural club that had been shut down more than half an year ago could match up to a real soldier.

Even though he felt it was disgraceful, Yasuo bent down and asked for a break.

“S-So what did you want to ask?”

After he stopped running and started to walk instead, he suddenly started to sweat profusely. Yasuo, who was still out of breath and had a high heart rate, asked Diana who still looked the same as usual.

“Actually, I wanted to ask about the thing you and Hideo usually wear.”

“The thing Dad and I wear? What, is it the necktie?”

Talking about things he and his father had in common, he could only think of the necktie and leather shoes...

“No, it’s not the necktie.”

“Ah, so you know what a necktie is.”

“We have those in Ante Lande as well, although the shape is different. My Magitech Knight uniform has a tie as well, you know?”

“Ah, you’re right. Then what is it?”

Lately, he hadn’t seen Diana wearing her Magitech Knight uniform.

Right now, she was wearing a comfortable tracksuit, however, it was strange how even this tracksuit that only cost 1280 Yen looked like it was custom made for her when worn by a girl like Diana.

“Yes, it’s probably something that doesn’t exist in Ante Lande, so I don’t know what to call it... Please excuse me.”

Saying that, Diana casually held Yasuo’s left hand as they continued to walk.

“Uh.”

From Yasuo’s perspective, having a girl hold his hand was a major event that was only allowed in the early years before he had joined school, so he was about to shout from surprise. However, considering Diana’s personality, she would take that as a sign that she had done something rude and get depressed, so he forced himself to hold it in.

It was a good thing they had been running until now. Even if his face was flushed and his heart rate was high, that wouldn’t look strange at all.

“What’s wrong?”

“Ah, It’s not here.”

Diana had been staring at Yasuo’s left wrist. Seeing that, Yasuo understood what Diana had wanted to ask about, even though he was tense.

However, in a way, that was unexpected. Diana had already been fluent in Japanese since coming to this world, and she at least knew about the existence of some consumer electronics.

However, the thing she was asking about now, did it really not exist in Ante Lande?

“Umm, I saw that the both of you had worn it on your wrists, so I initially thought it’s just something like a bracelet, but then I saw Hideo glance at it several times this morning. I don’t think men would do something like look at an accessory several times and feel happy about it, so I was wondering...”

“Ah.”

“Yasuo’s was black in color and made from leather, and Hideo’s was silver and made from metal.”

It was a very roundabout way of talking about it, but Yasuo didn’t particularly feel that it was strange that she didn’t know about it, so he answered in a normal tone.

“Umm, that’s probably the watch, right?”

“.....Excuse me?”

For some reason, Diana was so surprised that she stopped walking.

“Yasuo... can you repeat what you just said?”

“Eh? Like I said, it’s a watch... a wristwatch.”

No matter how he looked at it, Diana was definitely talking about the wristwatch. However, after being taken aback for a few moments, she immediately smiled.

“Come, now. Yasuo, even I won’t be fooled by something like that.”

“Huh?”

“I mean, it’s impossible to have a clock so small that you can wear it on your wrist.”

“...Huh?”

“I mean, I know that this world has a lot of incredible technology, and I also know that the flat mechanical device called a Slimphone has the ability to measure the passage of time.”

“Ah... yeah.”

“But talking about a clock that can be worn on the wrist, I cannot believe something as outrageous as that.”

It looked like Diana was actually being serious. However, Yasuo was not able to understand why Diana was so insistent that wristwatches could not exist, and refused to believe him.

That's why he immediately understood that it was no use trying to convince her with words, and,

"This is what you were talking about, right?"

"...Eh?"

He pulled his wristwatch out of his pocket and showed it to Diana.

It was an analog watch with a black leather strap. He usually wouldn't wear it when he was exercising, but he forgot to take it off before he started running today, so he had stashed it in his pocket.

It was a waterproof wristwatch with a simple design that his father had bought for him as a gift when he started high school. Not only for exams at school, it was useful to have on his desk while he was taking a test or mock examination at prep school as well.

Even though it's not good to talk about the price of something received as a gift, his watch was not some expensive model that cost several tens of thousands of Yen. Sure, Yasuo would need to save up a bit if he wanted to buy it with his allowance, but putting it another way, even Yasuo would be able to buy it if he really wanted to.

However, Diana was looking at it in amazement as if she was seeing some OOParts from a different world.

"T-This is a watch?"

"Y-Yeah, it is."

"This small, round thing, is it really a watch!?"

"Yes, it is. Is it really that surprising?"

Because she kept asking, Yasuo pushed the watch into Diana's hands slightly forcefully.

"Ahh!"

When he did that, Diana hurriedly used both hands to hold it. She held it delicately as if she was handling some relic of immense importance, and stopped moving.

“...The hands are moving. This one which moves the fastest displays the number of seconds, right?”

“That’s right. You didn’t have any problem reading the time looking at the clock at home, why are you so surprised at seeing a wrist watch?”

“B-But it’s so small...”

Apparently, the small size was what bothered Diana the most.

“Are the watches in Ante Lande a lot bigger than this?”

“Well... as far as I know, the smallest watch in Ante Lande is about the size where I can hold it in the palm of my hand...”

“Something like a pocket watch? But I’m not sure if those are the same size as Diana’s hands... wait, they’re pretty big.”

“No!? They’re small! Besides, those watches are so rare that you’ll almost never see regular people holding one. I’m sorry if this sounds like I’m boasting, but I was only able to hold one because of my family!”

Diana’s parents were also heroes who saved Ante Lande thirty years ago, and even before that, they were important figures in their country.

“That’s surprising. I thought it would be easy to make such things using the power of magic or sorcery.”

While thinking of “Magic from another world”, Yasuo had built up the impression of a civilisation where things which ran on electricity in this world would run on magic in the other world, for example, the streetlights would be powered by magic.

“Using magic to run a mechanism as complicated as a watch would be incredibly difficult. And to think, it’s so small...”

This was probably because of the difference in their viewpoints.

“Ah, that’s right! Yasuo! You were running with this in your pocket, right!?”

“Ah, yeah...”

“Is that okay? Won’t it break, or get messed up beyond repair?”

“Eehh?”

Yasuo didn’t know why she was so worried about a mere wristwatch, but she refused to listen to him no matter how many times he told her that it would be okay, so the two of them ended up walking all the way back home.

“...And that’s what happened.”

After they returned home, Yasuo told his mother and father what happened, while Diana was in the bath. His parents then looked at each other and nodded as if they understood.

“Well, that can’t be helped. A wristwatch in Ante Lande would be on about the same level as a Slimphone, both of them would be considered OOParts.”

“Is it really that incredible? It just displays the time.”

“The importance of ‘displaying the time’ is completely different between the two worlds.”

Perhaps his father noticed that Yasuo still didn’t understand in spite of saying so much, so he took his own wristwatch off and put it on the table.

“On Earth, wristwatches reached the level where they could be purchased by commoners somewhere in the second half of the 19th century. It’s believed that they become popular sometime around World War I.”

“Eh?”

Yasuo was surprised because his father suddenly began to lecture about world history.

“Before that, all the watches were handmade by craftsmen, unlike now when any component can be manufactured in a factory. Manufacturing something in bulk would require a lot of craftsmen to work on it. Not just the assembly, each component was also made by hand. Since each of those craftsmen were fairly skilled, the cost of labor at that time was extremely high compared to now. Besides, the watches made at that time were delicate and would easily go out of alignment. Well, there are also people in the world who say things were

better back then.”

“Go out of alignment?”

“It depends on the era, but it was said that even pocket watches that were custom made for nobles would be off by several minutes on the next day. A watch will shake when you walk around with it, right? Apparently, that would have an effect on the mechanisms inside the watch. Even watches built for nobles were like that, just imagine what it must have been like for the lower classes.”

Perhaps his father was able to talk so much about watches because the company he worked for specialized in making measurement devices.

“Being negatively affected by vibrations was a fatal flaw particularly when traveling by sea. Ships are constantly swaying on the surface of the water, right? Think about what will happen if the time is off by even a minute on ships that cross the open sea.”

“Just one minute? Can that really have an effect?”

“Come on, this is an elementary school level math problem.”

At his son’s reply, the father made a stern expression.

“Yasuo, if a car runs at one hundred kilometers per hour for one minute, how much distance will it cover?”

Seeing that Yasuo was still confused, his mother gave him some help.

“...Ah, I see.”

Yasuo finally understood.

On a paved highway, the distance traveled by a car moving at a fixed speed will change if the duration of the journey is changed by even a minute.

If that happened during a sea voyage where there were no markers or guideposts of any sort, what would happen?

“If you can’t measure the time precisely, you won’t know how far you’ve traveled or where exactly you are right now.”

“Exactly. Even if you know what direction to travel in because of a magnetic

compass, things will get really bad if your estimate of the current location is wrong.”

His father nodded strongly.

“Both your mother and I have had to escape from stranded ships because of that reason.”

“The ship was stranded both during the journey to Racquan Island and on the way back, I really thought we would die at those times.”

One of their memories as a couple is escaping from a stranded ship, and what’s more, it happened multiple times?

Also, please don’t bring up names of places in the other world like Racquan Island as if you are just describing a trip to Kyoto. This is why things would get troublesome if the hero of a story married the magician.

“This fact is so important that ships on Earth have devices called marine chronometers that are specifically built for such purposes. That’s just how difficult it was to build a small watch that doesn’t go out of alignment. The quartz watches that we use everyday only spread to the public about fifty or sixty years ago. It’s not surprising that Diana-chan was so amazed by the existence of a wristwatch. But they have things like sorcery, magic, and Techno Weapons, so you’d think their rate of technological development would be faster than ours...”

“...It feels strange.”

Yasuo looked at the wristwatch that his father had put on the table.

Something he took for granted and rarely even thought about had so much history and meaning behind it.

Diana, who had come from another world, still didn’t know about that history.

“But it’s important to talk to Diana-chan about such things. We need to start acclimatizing her to this world to some extent.... We also need to buy her clothes and other items that she’ll need in daily life, right? This is a good opportunity, why not gift her a wristwatch?”

“.....Eh? Me?”

Yasuo didn't immediately realize that his mother's proposal had been aimed at him, so he was slow to react.

"You don't realize how much she's helping you? Even though she's training your lazy body everyday?"

"No, I realize that, but really? Me? I've never given a present to a girl, you know?"

"You haven't!? Yasuo, even I had done something of that level when I was around your age."

"Shut up!"

Yasuo got angry after seeing his mother's look of surprise and his father's look of pity.

"It doesn't need to be something elaborate or expensive. It just has to be something that Diana-chan can use in daily life without any trouble... If you choose it, don't you think you can score a lot of points?"

"What the hell do you mean by 'points'!?"

What the hell was his mother trying to incite him to do?

At the very least, he sensed that she was trying to tease him, so he stood up suddenly and tried to end the conversation.

"The style is important though. At the very least, pick something that doesn't look ugly, okay?"

"Like I said, I didn't agree to buy something for her!"

"Why not research what kind of watches the girls you're friends with like to wear?"

"Enough, already!"

Yasuo heard the sound of the bathroom door opening, and retreated to his room as if he was running away so that Diana would not hear the conversation.

"I'm done with my bath... Huh? Has Yasuo gone to sleep already?"

When Diana entered the living room, she only saw Madoka who was laughing, and Hideo who was sighing because he was despairing over his son's future.

“Huh? A wristwatch? I don’t wear one. None of my friends do, either. What’s with the sudden question?”

“T-There’s no deep meaning behind it, but...”

“Don’t tell me you want to give one to Diana-san as thanks for the Magitech Knight training? Are you sure that’s a good idea? Buying a watch is too high a hurdle considering your fashion sense, Onii-chan.”

Despite what he had said to his mother, Yasuo felt bad for not doing anything for Diana despite all she had done for him, so he had asked the ‘girl’ close to him, his sister, for advice while having a faint thread of hope.

As a result, Nodoka instantly saw through her brother’s shallow thoughts and rejected it to his face.

“The ones that look nice are obviously expensive, the ones that are cheap really differ a lot and depend on the wearer’s taste, and you won’t find them in shops that men usually go to. Besides, in case something happens, won’t a wristwatch get in the way when she’s fighting?”

She continued to point out flaws in the idea that she had already rejected, and completely crushed Yasuo’s heart.

“Besides, would people really ask their little sisters for this kind of advice? Did you think that I would meekly agree and point out what I liked? Diana-san is a few years older than me, at the very least you should ask some girl of the same age as her, right? What about that person from your prep school?”

Nodoka was probably talking about Tatewaki Shouko.

However, Yasuo didn’t think that he was particularly close to her, and besides, he couldn’t remember if Shouko had been wearing a wristwatch or not. Also, if he asked Shouko for advice, she would get suspicious that he was ‘asking her for advice on what to buy for a different girl’. If she just suspected him, that would be manageable, but:

“Ahh, Yasu-kun, you’re really enjoying your high school life~ There’s a girl you want to gift a wristwatch to~ No wonder you forgot all about me~”

There was a good chance that she would say something like that. He had

already made a bad impression on her because of the stuff that had happened the other day.

“I see, that’s not an option. Well, it would probably be better to give up, Onii-chan. You’re probably incapable of asking girls for that kind of advice in the first place, and if you did, they’d definitely think you’re creepy.”

“You...”

He didn’t recall doing anything that would merit this level of insults, but since he was unable to completely deny Nodoka’s words, he wasn’t able to get angry either. However, he wasn’t sure if she even saw through those troubles of his.

“Well, I will praise you for at least having the intention to thank her. There’s no point in rushing these things, so why not get her something simple instead of a watch that carries a lot of meaning? Diana-san would probably be happy with almost anything.”

“...I see... I understand, thanks for your help.”

“Sure. Where’s my consultation fees?”

“You’re not getting anything from me.”

“Useless.”

“You’re really horrible, you know that?”

Why would she hurl so much abuse at him every time she opened her mouth?

The instant he tried to say something back to her, she disappeared from before him, only to be replaced by the door of her room.

“Ah, what’s with this situation...”

Yasuo was talking to himself.

This was not the first time Diana had experienced culture shock since coming to Japan. However, because of his mother’s unnecessary words, he had started to think about something unnecessary as well.

Giving something that he had chosen, or something he had made, as a present to a girl.

His last memory of doing that was back in play school, when he had given a

girl a paper airplane made from the yellow folding paper that she liked.

Such a miserable state of affairs.

“...Besides, it’s just something Mom said. There’s no need to be in a hurry to do something to thank her.”

Yasuo felt more miserable the longer he thought about it, so he forcefully cut off that train of thought.

He tried to cut it off. However, in spite of that, his imagination refused to stop.

If he gave Diana a wristwatch, would she happy?

Did he really want to make Diana happy?

“Ahh, I don’t understand it anymore!”

It wasn’t like he wanted to be thanked by Diana. In spite of that, he couldn’t stop himself from imagining the look on her face when she received a present from him.

Yasuo sat in his room and held his head in depression because he felt embarrassed at having such thoughts, but the seconds hand of his alarm clock kept on making a sound as if to corner him and laugh at his helplessness.

SS 02 – The eyes can be just as expressive as the mouth

Yasuo came into the living room after finishing his bath, and he saw that Diana was watching TV.

He had finally gotten used to the sight of a Magitech Knight from another world watching television in the living room of his house.

“What are you watching? The news?”

He couldn't tell what show she was watching because commercials were currently playing, so he asked her that question while opening the door of the fridge. The fact that a wristwatch commercial was playing was slightly bad for his heart because of the events the other day, but...

“...Yasuo...”

The fact that Diana's face after she turned around was as pale as a ghost was even worse for his heart.

“W-What's wrong?”

“Yasuo... It's terrible.”

“W-What is?”

The fact that the watch being shown in the commercial was a high-priced model with several functions made his worries go off on an entirely different tangent, but Diana's next words went over even that.

“Aliens...”

“Huh?”

“It appears that... aliens are investigating this world.”

“.....Huh?”

Yasuo had no idea what Diana was talking about, and he stood there with his eyebrows furrowed until the fridge made a sound, warning him that he had left

the door open.

How many years had gone by since he had last heard that word?

It took Yasuo around five minutes to confirm that Diana was indeed talking about creatures from another planet.

“Umm... they were saying on TV earlier that aliens are investigating this planet, so... I’m from a different planet myself, so I can’t really complain, but maybe because of that, there is a chance that we might run up against each other...”

It was the same during the incident with the wristwatch the other day, but seeing Diana seriously thinking about such things and becoming confused really made him remember that she is from a different world after all.

The reason why he couldn’t just think of her as a foreigner with no idea about life in Japan was because she could speak Japanese perfectly.

After finding out why Diana had suddenly brought up the topic of aliens, Yasuo burst into laughter.

“Y-Yasuo!?”

“You’re talking about one of those, right? A canned coffee commercial...”

He should have realized it the instant she said the phrase, “aliens are investigating the Earth”.

She must have been talking about the canned coffee commercials that featured a famous Hollywood actor.^[1]

“It’s okay. He’s not really an alien. He’s from Earth.”

“B-But he fired energy beams from his eyes, you know!? Also, his ears seemed to have some sort of barrier ability that is impossible for humans...”

Where had she learned how to say “barrier ability” in Japanese? Come to think of it, she also knew the term for the Halibut fish. Yasuo sometimes felt like he couldn’t gauge the depth of Diana’s Japanese vocabulary at all.

“That’s all CG.”

“Shee-Jee?”

The sight of Diana drawing out the syllables while learning this new word could only be called adorable.

“CG. Computer graphics. It’s an artificially created image.”

“So it’s all just made-up imagery? It really didn’t look like that...”

“Well, we all watch it while being aware of the fact, but I guess it looks that way if you don’t know about it. That person who plays the part of an alien is an actor from abroad. They just use CG to add on all sorts of effects.”

“I see. I was really surprised. After all, I had heard that the people of this world cannot use magic or sorcery...”

“There are a lot of movie DVDs in the shelf below the TV, you can watch them if you like. I’ll teach you how to play them.”

As they had been talking about CG, Yasuo selected a number of CG anime and movies that were known for VFX, and showed Diana how to use the DVD player.

Since it was already late, he didn’t expect her to watch them right away, but he picked a number of movies for her assuming that she would watch them when she had free time.

The next morning.

“W-What is that? What happened!?”

“I’m sorry I’m sorry please don’t look at me I’m sorry I’m sorry It’s nothing!”

Diana was sitting down at the dinner table wearing sunglasses that didn’t suit her at all.

If he was not mistaken, those were the glasses without any degree that his father occasionally wore while driving, but they didn’t suit Diana’s face at all, and it looked like she was wearing a disguise that made her stand out on purpose.

Although he didn’t want to believe it, could she possibly be imitating that movie he recommended last night that was known for its VFX and had a lead character who wore sunglasses?^[2]

Besides, how could she expect people to not look at her when she was

wearing something so conspicuous?

At this point, Madoka, his mother, made a harried expression and said,

“Yasuo. Leave her be.”

“Ehh... ah, okay.”

Yasuo really wanted to ask for more details, but he realized that nothing would come from it even if he did, so he silently ate his breakfast. After he was done, he sent a message to his father who had left earlier, and went to school.

After confirming that Yasuo had left, Madoka let out a small sigh and sat in front of Diana.

“Listen, Diana-chan.”

“Yes...”

Diana’s face had turned bright red beneath the sunglasses, and she hung her head.

“There might be no point in telling you, a Magitech Knight, about this, but the eyes are delicate. Someone must have told you when you were little to not stare directly at the sun, right? If you fire energy beams from such a place, in the worst case, you might even go blind, you know? You’re lucky that you only ended up with slight burns on your eyelids, and I was on hand to heal you right away.”

“Yes...”

“Firing beams from the eyes only happens in CG and special effects movies. You’ve never seen anyone in Resteria do something like that, right? Why did you do something like that all of a sudden?”

“Umm... I was unable to resist my curiosity...”

“In any case, don’t ever try to fire magic from your eyes again. Understood?”

“Yes... I’m really sorry.”

Diana answered while looking like she wanted to disappear.

“Ah, so that’s what it was.”

Nodoka had refrained from entering the room because she sensed the serious mood, but she nodded after looking at the flowerpot near the main door which was broken in a weird way, with the cross-section of the pieces appearing as if they had melted.

She also felt slightly disappointed that even a Magitech Knight from another world was incapable of firing beams from her eyes, and then,

“It’s really hot, you know? When I tried doing that a long time ago, my eyebrows and eyelashes were completely burned away.”

“Madoka!?”

“Mom!?”

After hearing her mother’s incredible confession, Nodoka couldn’t hold back anymore and burst into the living room.

Notes

[1] ‘Boss’ canned coffee commercials starring Tommy Lee Jones. Some examples: Boss commercials

[2] I’m almost certain that this is a reference to The Matrix, but it could also easily be any number of movies like Men in Black, The Terminator, or some Japanese movie that I haven’t heard of.

SS 03 – There are many unknown things in this world

There was a time when her mother had attempted to fire energy beams from her eyes.

Even though Nodoka had not wanted to know about such a past, how should she interact with her mother now that she had found out about it?

Nodoka felt like she was seeing her mother in a whole new light.

Speaking of seeing people in a new light, it was no longer possible to just write it off as a joke after seeing the chain of events that had been caused by Diana's actions, but putting that aside for now,

"Besides, just what made you want to try such a thing?"

"Ah, umm... sorry, I'd appreciate it if you didn't pursue this matter any further..."

Next to Nodoka, Diana was wearing the sunglasses and had hung her head in shame.

Although Diana clearly did not want to attract attention from other people in the street, she was still accompanying Nodoka to her school as a guard.

Would she still be able to fight if the otherworld monsters called Shii showed up? Moreover, did she really intend to fight the Shii, that looked like black shadows, while wearing black sunglasses?

As Nodoka looked at Diana who was slightly taller than her, she noticed Diana's golden hair sparkling in the early morning sunlight.

"...Mu."

"Umm... Nodoka?"

"It's unfair."

"Huh?"

“Those sunglasses are the ones Dad uses when driving, right?”

“Yes, that’s what I had heard.”

“Beautiful people are so lucky... although the glasses obviously don’t suit you, you still end up looking somewhat cool.”

“Please don’t tease me!”

“No, I’m actually being kind of serious, you know? You look like an actress who is going to Hawaii on vacation.”

“By Hawaii, do you mean that place in Tottori...?”

“Why do you only know about such strange things, Diana-san?”

There’s a hot springs resort called ‘Hawai’ in the Tottori Prefecture that has become pretty famous in recent years, and it has many good reviews online.

However, why did this person from Ante Lande know about it, when she was only supposed to have information about Japan that was over thirty years old?

“Ah, actually it was shown on TV yesterday...”

“Diana-san, you’re actually quite fond of watching TV, huh?”

“Yes, I am. It’s something that does not exist in our world after all, and it’s easy to learn a lot of things because it displays text and produces sound at the same time.”

“Ah, you mean like how you feel you can understand what they are saying in English if the video has subtitles?”

From what Nodoka had seen so far, she knew that Diana had a wide variety of tastes when it came to television programmes.

She could understand why Diana would be interested in the news and documentaries, but she had also occasionally come across Diana watching variety or comedy shows, travel documentaries, and TV shopping programmes with a serious expression on her face.

“Are travel documentaries and TV shopping programmes really that interesting? Diana-san, you’re still not that familiar with the geography of Japan, right?”

“Whether they are interesting or not... that doesn’t really matter.”

“Eh?”

“Watching TV shopping programmes helps me understand the value of currency here as it lets me know the relative value of different items. As for travel documentaries, they teach me about the different modes of transportation available in this world. I would like to ride on those vehicles called trains and buses some day. They also help me understand the geography easily as it is presented in a visual format. Of course, I will also need to study it properly using textbooks, but for me, the most important thing right now is to align myself with the Japanese way of thinking as soon as possible. I just thought that travel documentaries are best suited for that purpose.”

“Hmm? Align yourself?”

“Yes. Remember when I acted rudely towards one of Yasuo’s friends?”

“Ah, you mean that time when you intimidated one of Onii-chan’s friends from prep school?”

Not long after Diana had come to Japan, there had been an incident where Diana had mistaken Tatewaki Shouko, one of Yasuo’s classmates from middle school, for an enemy and intimidated her.

“The people who appear in travel documentaries are those you mentioned earlier, the actors, correct? So they’re all famous people.”

“Well, yeah. Although that depends on the type of documentary.”

After hearing that, Diana lightly patted the pocket of her jacket and smiled.

“I need to get used to the fact that even such people, and the staff personnel around them, do not need to go armed in this country called Japan. Maintaining public order and actions taken to preserve the peace are directly dependent on whether the country is peaceful to begin with.”

“A-Armed!?”

Diana was wearing Madoka’s jacket, but she had Pollux, which was one of her twin bladed Techno Weapon, concealed under it. The other half, Castor, had broken in the previous fight and had been left behind in the room Diana was

using.

“Although it’s shameful to admit, there are many places and districts within the Resteria Kingdom that are beyond the reach of not only the Magitech Knights, but the local authorities as well. Such places are either a hotbed of crime, or are overrun by dangerous wild beasts... there are no such places in Japan, right?”

“I don’t think that Japan is absolutely free of such things.”

“No, there are really no such places in Japan.”

Diana gave a shallow smile.

“I mean, Nodoka, you’ve never had to arm yourself for self-defence, right? There is no need to carry weapons in the course of your usual life, right?”

“Well, yeah. More like, possessing weapons is a crime...”

“Children who live on the streets because they have lost their parents ambush people on the streets and steal their money. Groups of bandits attack merchants who are traveling on the highway and kill them. There are no places in Japan where such things happen on a daily basis, right?”

“...Well, I’m sure things like that won’t happen here.”

There are many reports of incidents that are so cruel that they want to make you cover your eyes.

However, even though Nodoka didn’t know much about the world, she could confidently say that there was no place where such things were considered normal.

“That’s why, I need to understand that this country is that kind of place. I need to understand that Yasuo... was born and raised in such a country.”

“Ah, I see.”

Yasuo was a person who had very little experience with real malice and killing intent. However, the path that he had chosen to follow was saving that ‘other world’ from a crisis, where fighting and bloodletting were common even during peaceful times.

“Putting it this way might sound bad, but it’s probably better to not expect too much from him. Onii-chan has no courage at all.”

Diana merely laughed and shook her head after hearing Nodoka’s critical appraisal of her brother that she had given after seeing him all her life.

“Even though I was born in such a world, I was raised while being pampered in the society of nobles, so it took me a long time to accustom myself to that reality and build up my courage as a soldier.”

“...Well, if you’re okay with it, Diana-san, then that’s fine.”

If Yasuo was still determined to follow this path and Diana didn’t change her mind either, then it was not something Nodoka could do anything about.

Nodoka had strongly rejected the idea of her father going to Ante Lande, but she didn’t particularly feel anything about Yasuo’s training.

Nodoka already knew the reason for that, but after remembering it once again, she asked a question to try and change the subject.

“Diana-san, you’re very fluent in Japanese, but that’s not a language spoken in Ante Lande or Resteria, right?”

“Yes, it’s not.”

After hearing that, Nodoka sighed and said,

“Onii-chan is really bad at English, you know.”

“...I know that. But the national language of Resteria is not English, and thanks to the influences of Hideo and Madoka, a little Japanese is also spoken there.”

“A little...?”

“Umm, like the names of food and so on...”

“.....”

So it was like how words like ‘sushi and ‘tempura’ had become loan-words in English, and it was not at the level where people could speak or understand the language at all.

“Putting it this way might sound bad, but it’s probably better to not expect too much from him.”

“...It all depends on his actions from now on.”

Diana’s eyes were hidden by the sunglasses, but Nodoka was certain that her eyes were filled with worry.

SS 04 – Nature is beautiful everywhere

“Ah!”

“Hmm?”

They had almost reached Kitahara Middle School, the middle school that Nodoka attended, when Diana let out a loud voice and stopped walking.

“Nodoka! Over there! Look!”

Diana excitedly took off her sunglasses and pointed at something far away.

Instead of what Diana was pointing at, Nodoka saw that the area around Diana’s eyes was slightly red. However, if she were to mention this, she had a feeling that Diana’s whole face would turn red, so she decided not to point it out.

She unwillingly turned to see what Diana was pointing at, but...

“...Hmm? What?”

Houses, the streets, a small tea plantation, and buildings.

“What are you pointing at?”

Nodoka really couldn’t tell what Diana was pointing at and intently looked for the thing that had captured Diana’s interest, but she still couldn’t find it.

“Over there! That’s Mt. Fuji, right!?”

“Ehh!? Mt. Fuji!? Where!?”

The two of them were in the middle of town, and it wasn’t a particularly elevated area.

Nodoka knew that if they were blessed with clear weather during winter, Mt. Fuji would be visible from the upper levels of her school. However, was there a really a place on the route to school, moreover, in such a place surrounded by buildings, from where Mt. Fuji would be visible?

“Over there, isn’t that Mt. Fuji!?”

“Uhh... Ehhhhh!?”

Nodoka put her face next to Diana's, looked intently to see what she was pointing at, and was honestly surprised.

It was in between two low-rise buildings.

The gap between the buildings acted as an unintentional peep hole, and from exactly this spot, she was indeed able to catch a glimpse of the snow-capped peak of Mt. Fuji.

“G-Good job on finding that.”

“I really wanted to see it at least once after coming to Japan! I've heard that it's a really beautiful mountain!”

Diana continued to talk about it excitedly like a typical tourist from abroad, albeit in fluent Japanese. She even appeared to have forgotten that her eyes had been burned by the energy beam.

Nodoka was a little relieved after seeing her bright face and hearing her happy voice.

During the battle the other day, Diana had received a large emotional scar. However, no shadow of that fight or the trouble with otherworldly monsters could be seen on her happy expression at this moment.

How was she able to stay so positive?

Looking at her expression right now, Nodoka really felt that her brother was not needed at all. However, saying that right now would sound like a non-sequitur, so she held it in.

“You knew about Mt. Fuji even before coming here?”

From the way Diana put it, it sounded like she had known about Mt. Fuji from a long time ago rather than hearing about it after coming to Japan.

“Of course! To the people of Ante Lande, Mt. Fuji is a divine mountain!”

“Oh, I see... Hmm?”

Nodoka intended to give a light response, but after thinking of something, she felt a chill run down her spine.

“Hang on, you don’t mean...”

“Yes! It’s considered divine because it exists in the birthplace of Hideo and Madoka!”

“.....”

Mt. Fuji is an active volcano that sits in between the Shizuoka and Yamanashi prefectures. Neither her father nor her mother, nor any of their relatives were from Shizuoka and Yamanashi, so it was a little strange to hear someone saying that it “exists in the birthplace of Hideo and Madoka”.

“There are many mountains in Ante Lande that have been named ‘Fuji’ or ‘Fujisan’.”

“...Really?”

“Remember the painting I told you about before, the one called ‘The Hero, Hideo, gazes upon the sunrise at the Sacred Mountain’ that was painted during Hideo and Madoka’s travels? The mountain in that painting is now sometimes called Mt. Hideo Fuji!”

“...And that’s what she said.”

“Now way...”

“Seriously?”

That night, Nodoka casually mentioned Diana’s shocking proclamation to her parents over dinner, which caused both her father and mother to hold her heads and collapse upon the dinner table.

“What kind of name is Hideo Fuji...”

“Don’t ask me. That sounds like a Sumo wrestler’s stage name.”

The middle school daughter turned a sceptical look upon her parents who were trying to escape from reality.

“It’s that painting, right? The one that was painted on the northern cliffs of Gazadi...”

“You’re probably right.. Remember that person we met while coming down the mountain? He said he was a painter and a survivor from Torjesso.”

“That bastard, he did something unnecessary.”

“Apparently, that painting is treated as one of Resteria’s national treasures now.”

“I don’t care what they think about the painting itself, but why did it cause the cliffs of Gazadi to be called ‘Hideo Fuji’? That place is a mountain range, right?”

“Actually, did you talk to anyone over there about Mt. Fuji?”

“I don’t remember something like that. Are you sure you’re not the one who talked about it?”

Nodoka could only smile bitterly while watching the Hero and great magician arguing hotly and pushing the responsibility onto each other.

“You probably looked at some mountain during your travels and said that it looked like Mt. Fuji, right? To someone like Diana-san’s father or mother.”

Looking at it as a topic of gossip, it was not impossible.

Nodoka had never been abroad, but if she went to study in a foreign country someday and saw a view there that resembled Japan, she would surely mention it to the people there.

In her parents’ case, because their companions were leaders of countries, anything they let slip would immediately be spread widely among the commoners.

“Does it really matter? This is all stuff in Ante Lande, right? Just let them do what they want.”

“Nodoka, just think about it. How would you feel if you became famous for some great achievement, and they changed the name of this area to ‘Tokorozawa City, Nodoka District’?”

“Uuu... That’s...”

“You wouldn’t like it if they wanted to change the name of Tokorozawa Station to Nodoka Station in light of your achievements, right?”

“I definitely wouldn’t want that.”

“If Yasuo really manages to become a hero in Ante Lande, then you might face the same thing as well. In the process of celebrating Yasuo’s achievements, they might give your name to some river or building, that’s entirely possible.”

“...I don’t think that Onii-chan will really manage to become a hero, but for the first time, I seriously feel like I want him to stop trying.”

In that room illuminated in a slightly yellow light by an aged fluorescent lamp, the old Hero, great magician, and their daughter gave a heavy sigh while thinking about the boy who said he wanted to become a hero, and who was out training at this very instant.

“And so, after dropping Nodoka off at her school, I walked about a little searching for a place from where I would be able to see Mt.Fuji.”

“I... see...”

That night, Diana happily related what happened that morning to Yasuo during their usual running, but Yasuo was once again so out of breath that he couldn’t even reply properly. It was the same during the incident the other day with the wrist watch, Diana talked a lot even while running.

For Yasuo, talking during exercise was unthinkable because it would disrupt his breathing.

However, thinking about it properly, people would have to move a lot in the middle of battle. If you’re not able to communicate properly in the middle of battle, there is a possibility of losing your life.

That is what he had been told, but he still wasn’t able to make any proper conversation, and it usually ended with him running in silence. Sure, it had only been a week since he had started training, but at this rate, it was unclear whether he would even manage to become a regular soldier, let alone a Hero.

Incidentally, Diana’s eyes seemed to have already been completely healed by some magical means, and she was no longer wearing the sunglasses when Yasuo had returned from school.

“You want to... see Mt. Fuji... so badly...?”

“Of course!”

Diana clenched her fists without disrupting her breathing at all.

After hearing that a lot of mountains in Ante Lande had been named Fuji, Yasuo felt like he had heard of something like this happening before and he kept thinking about it while running silently.

“Ah... I remember... Mt. Fuji...”

“Yes?”

They had finally reached home after finishing their running, and Yasuo was so fatigued that he even felt nauseous.

“There’s... a Mt. Fuji... close by.”

“Ehh!?”

Diana’s already big eyes widened even further after hearing that.

No matter how you look at it, it was definitely just an artificial hill.

Yasuo booted up the PC at home that he rarely used, and ran an internet search for “Tokorozawa Mt. Fuji”. One of the search results was the Fujizuka^[1] near Sayama Hills, the “Arahata Fuji”.^[2]

“I went to see it during a school outing once. This is called a Fujizuka.”

“Fujizuka?”

“Yeah. back in the old days, it was pretty difficult to even travel to the base of Mt. Fuji. However, Mt. Fuji was visible from many parts in Japan, and paintings of that beautiful sight also easily spread to many places. You said mountains with snow, tall mountains, and mountains with similar shape are called Fuji in Ante Lande because of what Dad or Mom said, right? This is pretty similar to that.”

From the description provided on the website, it appeared that the “Arahata Fuji” near Tokorozawa City was originally a Fujizuka that was present at a shrine that was built sometime in the Meiji Era. It had been moved to its present location later on, and it was now a lot bigger than it had originally been.

“Well, it doesn’t serve its original purpose anymore, but since the old days, everyone has always felt that Mt. Fuji was special... That’s what my teacher at

school said, anyways.”

Yasuo closed the browser and shut down the PC while continuing to speak.

“This is not really a reason, but... how do I put this? I know I’m nowhere near your level yet, Diana, but after hearing about how the people over there named a mountain after Mt. Fuji to celebrate the achievements of a Hero, I’ve come to feel that the people of that world and this world share a similar way of thinking, so it gives me a little motivation.”

“The Arahata Fuji you just showed me, is it permitted to climb it?”

“No, I don’t think we’re allowed to. It’s supposed to be the object of worship in a shrine after all, so climbing it might invite divine punishment. It was probably built while regarding it as something sacred.”

“...I think I understand. The feelings of admiration. Even though I only saw it from afar, I too thought that it was a beautiful mountain.”

Diana made a small smile after saying that.

“There’s a lot of beautiful scenery in Resteria that I want you to see as well, Yasuo. They are beautiful sights that Hideo and Madoka have definitely seen before.”

“...It was my idea after all, so I’ll work hard.”

If Yasuo ended up going to Ante Lande, it would definitely not be for a sightseeing trip.

Going to that land would mean taking up the mantle of Hero as his father’s representative, and entering a world of war that he had never experienced before.

“Saying this sounds uncool, but really, don’t hold high hopes for me, okay? Even I don’t know if I can really become that strong.”

“I understand. Even if you don’t become a Hero, Yasuo, I would still like you to come to Ante Lande to visit. Of course, I’ll act as your guide when that time comes.”

“A-Ah, sure...”

After seeing such an honest smile, he had no choice but to work hard.

Yasuo suddenly felt shy and ran away from that place after saying that he was going to take a shower.

“Mt. Fuji...”

Diana once again murmured the name of Japan’s largest sacred mountain to herself.

“It’s a little too far away to use as a training spot.”

After saying that, she turned to the living room door that Yasuo had escaped through, and made a mischievous smile.

The next morning, Yasuo woke up feeling a little more refreshed than he usually did in the morning, perhaps because of what happened last night, or as a result of his daily training. He left his room in high spirits, but,

“Onii-chan.”

For some reason, Nodoka was waiting for him outside his room, and,

“Onii-chan, you’re not suited for this after all. Becoming a Hero doesn’t suit you at all.”

She said something like that as soon as she opened her mouth, and,

“Yasuo, don’t you feel like you’re at your limit? If you want to give up, now’s the time.”

His mother said something so disheartening to him when he ran into her near the bathroom, and finally,

“Yasuo, are you really not going to regret becoming a hero?”

Even his father asked him that with a serious expression when they were sitting at the dining table.

“W-What’s up with all of you? Saying stuff like this right after I got motivated to work harder!”

He knew that the people of his family were not enthusiastic about the fact that he had volunteered to become a Hero.

However this was the first time he had seen them try so earnestly to change his mind, and moreover, they were doing it as a group, so Yasuo felt more confused than angry.

“I told you that I’ll do whatever is within my power, right? What’s up with all of you all of a sudden!?”

“No, you should really quit.”

“I mean, considering it’s you...”

“Well, as long as you hold on to that conviction...”

At these half-hearted responses, Yasuo said,

“I’m going to school! Dad, keep your mobile phone within reach as much as possible, okay!?”

Yasuo left the house after squaring his shoulders.

“Have a good day!”

Diana, who had been cleaning the area near the still-broken front door sent a cheerful voice towards Yasuo’s back, and spurred on by that voice, Yasuo headed forward to face another day.

“Ah, it’s no good, he’s really motivated. And Diana-san is the type of person who unconsciously encourages him to work harder.”

“This takes me back. I remember when you and Alex were often taken for a ride by Erize’s airheaded side as well. ”

“W-Why did you shift the conversation to me all of a sudden?”

The Hero Candidate was running towards a bright future, and for better or for worse, he didn’t hear a word of the things his family members were talking about.

– The End –

Notes:

[1] A man-made representation of Mt. Fuji.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujizuka>

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arahata_Fuji_Shrine

SS 05 – Dealing with it calmly

When Yasuo climbed down the stairs and entered the living room, he saw that Diana had a pale face and had sunken down onto the floor.

“W-What’s wrong?”

“Y-Yasuo... It’s... it’s terrible.”

“Huh?”

Yasuo looked to see what Diana was pointing at, and saw the house phone which was made of plastic, yellowed with age.

“T-The phone rang just now...”

“The phone?”

“Yes. Madoka told me that I don’t need to answer the phone, but I was standing right next to it when it rang, so I answered it without thinking.”

“Really? Was the phone call something bad?”

“Yes... Umm, what should I do...”

“Eh? Hey, Diana! What’s wrong!?”

Diana burst into tears for some reason, and Yasuo began to panic.

“H-Hideo is...”

“Dad? Did something happen to him!?”

“H-Hideo... caused a traffic accident...!”

“A traffic accident!?”

This was indeed serious.

It was a phrase you hear often, but if it happened to you, it was serious enough to turn your life upside down.

“A-And he apparently ran over the old lady after hitting her...”

“Hmm?”

“Apparently both of them are in the hospital with serious injuries, so they couldn’t talk on the phone. But the policeman said that if we act quickly, we can settle this out of court, so we should prepare the money.”

“Hang on. There are many suspicious parts in that statement. I mean, this is still a problem, but in a different way than you think.”

“Eh....?”

“Think about it. We don’t have a car. It was destroyed in that battle with the Shii a few days ago.”

“Y-Yes.”

“Also, Dad is a Hero, right? It would be weird if he got injured badly enough that he had to be admitted in a hospital and couldn’t talk on the phone.”

“Y-Yes, you’re right.”

“Moreover, the police won’t ask you to prepare money. It’s obviously an impersonating fraudster.”

“I-Impersonating... Eh? Fraudster?”

“And finally, one more thing.”

“Y-Yes...”

“Dad’s in his room right now, watching baseball on TV.”

“.....Eh?”

Diana looked up at the ceiling where Yasuo was pointing with a stupid expression on her face.

“Ah... That’s right, today is that day of the week when people don’t go to work.”

“Yeah.”

“They said something about calling back later, though.”

“Seriously!? Dad! Mom! We might be in a bit of trouble!”

How seriously had Diana taken that fraudster’s call?

In any case, if the fraudster really called back later, then they had a duty as

citizens to report it to the police.

Yasuo, the high schooler, didn't hesitate for a second before relying on his parents.

"Thank you for your help. A few people had already fallen prey to this, but as it was a small organization and they demanded only small amounts of money, we were able to resolve the situation before it became serious."

"No, it was nothing really. One of my relatives' children just happened to pick up the phone call, that's all."

Three days had passed since then.

A policeman from the nearby police box whom they had become familiar with after the incident when the front door was destroyed came to the Kenzaki residence to inform them that the police were able to catch the fraudster thanks to their help.

A lot of similar calls had been made to houses in the locality and many reports had been made to the police, but the recording taken by the Kenzaki family contained the decisive evidence required to find the criminals, so the police wanted to thank them.

Madoka was properly dealing with the policeman, and as for the "relative's child" in question, "Humiliating... I'm so ashamed... If I had just thought about it calmly I would have immediately realized that it was strange, and yet...!"

Diana was constantly blaming herself for losing her composure in spite of being a Knight, and because of that...

"Diana-san, you're amazing! Even though you came to a different world, you still defeated the bad guys! Awesome!"

Seeing how depressed Diana was, Nodoka tried her best to cheer her up.

"Well, I'm just glad it was resolved without any damage."

Seeing that, Yasuo breathed a sigh of relief.

"As if I would run over someone and put them in the hospital... Seriously, saying such horrible things about me."

And for some reason, Hideo was still angry with the fraudster's methods.

SS 06 – Chokansha Fair 2017

In ancient times, the world at night did not belong to the humans.

Even some time after man had obtained culture, items like oil and candles that could be used for illumination at night were very expensive, and they were not something commoners could use without reserve.

However in this other world called Japan, even a child could summon the brightness of noon at night by pressing a single switch.

The Magitech Knight, Diana, was still astonished at the simplicity of these 『Nighttime Lights』, and she whispered softly,

“It’s finally... time.....”

It was 1:00 AM, the time when most people were fast asleep. Diana’s heartbeat sped up and her slender throat moved as she gulped.

She was nervous.

Even she thought it was silly behavior for a person who had risked their life and lived through many battles, but it was only natural for people to be nervous when faced with the 『Unknown』.

With trembling fingers, Diana picked up the 『Unknown』.

When she shook it, she heard the sound of something light moving inside.

She awkwardly removed the transparent wrapping from the 『Unknown』 and gathered her resolve before opening the lid.

“.....H-Huh?”

However, the instant she took the lid off, it curled up in her hand. At this rate, it would be impossible to carry out the next step from the instructions she had heard earlier.

“C-Calm down... How can I give up when faced with an emergency of this level...”

This lid could no longer be used. When Diana was looking around to find something that could be used instead,

“Is that you, Diana? What are you doing?”

“Hiyaaaaaaaaa!”

The lights in the living room were switched on, and the light illuminated the kitchen as well.

Diana gave a small scream and jumped because she had not expected someone to call out to her all of a sudden.

“Y-Y-Yasuo! You were awake?”

“I had been studying until just now. What’s wrong? Why were you so surprised?”

“N-No, it’s nothing! I wasn’t doing anything wrong!”

She had overlooked this possibility.

Since the house was silent, she had assumed that everyone was asleep, but the eldest son of Hideo the Hero, Yasuo, was preparing for exams, so he stayed up late every night to study.

“What do you mean, ‘wrong?’ I thought I’d grab something to drink before going to sleep. I need to open the refrigerator, mind moving out of the way?”

“Eh... Ah... Umm... Please wait!”

“.....Diana?”

In contrast to Yasuo’s smile, Diana was trembling like a lamb that had been cornered by a carnivorous beast.

Yasuo wondered why Diana was so scared.

And then, three minutes later.

“It’s delicious!”

Diana was smiling happily while eating cup ramen.

Apparently, she was interested in the true nature of this method of food preparation that is 『complete in three minutes after adding hot water』. She

had asked for the most basic variety, and then decided to challenge herself in the middle of the night to prepare cup noodles for the first time in her life, while looking forward to the results.

“You should peel the lid halfway and pour the hot water inside, then put chopsticks or something else on top to keep it closed.”

“I see! So we’re not supposed to open it all the way!”

“That’s right. Or you can just cover the opening by putting a flat plate on top like we did just now. By the way, why were you so scared?”

“I’m not scared or anything.”

Even so, Diana still cast her eyes downwards while looking a little embarrassed.

“Being awake in the middle of the night for no reason is already a problem, on top of that, I was shamelessly meddling around in the kitchen preparing a snack, which I was taught was unbecoming behaviour, so I feel like I’ve done something bad... But surprisingly I haven’t found the opportunity to eat it at any other time.....”

Even though she was still looking down, Diana had a blissful expression on her face while she finished eating the cup ramen in the blink of an eye.

“.....That was heavenly.”

Diana said that with a sigh of satisfaction, and,

“That’s great.”

Looking at her expression, Yasuo could not help but smile.